

# ASKING POINT NETWORK



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## ASKing for the Advocates Among Us

How often do you pray for lawyers? When most people think of lawyers, it is usually not in a positive light. Our thoughts turn to “ambulance chasers” or other negative portrayals of attorneys we see in the media. One article’s title says a lot: *“Scientific Study Concludes No One Trusts Lawyers.”* But what if I were to tell you that there are legal professionals across the globe who are doing their best to follow Christ and need your prayers?

Advocates International is a global network whose vision is be **“A worldwide fellowship of advocates bearing witness of Jesus Christ through the legal profession.”** There are now Christian lawyer fellowships in over 130 nations and Christian attorneys in another 20+ countries that don’t yet have a fellowship. These Advocates are legal professionals — lawyers, judges, law professors, law students, paralegals — who are seeking to live out Christ’s commands to us to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth — Acts 1:8. It is this verse which is the foundation of our mission:

to encourage, enable and equip advocates globally to meet locally (Jerusalem), organize nationally (Judea), cooperate regionally (Samaria) and link globally to promote religious freedom, justice for the poor, rule of law, human life & dignity, peace & reconciliation, family & community, and ethical integrity.

As a lawyer myself, I can tell you that working in the legal profession can be lonely and stressful. Long hours. Difficult issues. Difficult clients. If a TV show about working as a lawyer showed the reality of the challenges and the amount of time an attorney spends sitting in front of their computer working on legal briefs or other minutiae, it wouldn’t last for more than one 30 minute episode before viewers turned it off. If they were still awake.

But when people need legal help, how many think: “I hope that my lawyer is honest.” That’s where our ASKing of the Father comes in. Many of our Advocates live and

### ASKing Point

is a bi-monthly communication on behalf of ASK Network International. It is an invitation to join the network of prayer throughout the nations, ASKing and agreeing regarding key issues on God’s heart. It is a tool for prayer, a place for testimony to God’s faithfulness in answering, and a gift of worship to the Living God.

[www.ASKnetwork.net](http://www.ASKnetwork.net)

practice law in countries where corruption is rife, there is an expectation that lawyers are bad and judges can be bought. They received no training in ethics, and there are very few, if any, examples of legal professionals with integrity.

Advocates International and the network of Christian lawyer fellowships serve as a vessel for helping our advocates to learn from one another to be salt and light. Some of the fellowships are actively seeking ways to make a difference in the public square in their nations. Some of the fellowships, on the other hand, do all they can to simply help each other stay alive. Here are two brief examples.

In one predominantly Muslim nation, there are three Advocates we know. The first was a seventh generation Imam in training when Jesus appeared to him in a dream. He followed Christ, leaving his Muslim traditions behind. He was disowned by his family and fled his country. He returned and subsequently led two other Muslim lawyers to faith. Please pray for Advocates like him.

In Germany, the fellowship is called *Christ und Jurist*, and is 300 members strong. In Berlin in October 2018, they co-hosted, along with the *Lawyers Christian Fellowship* of the UK, a conference of over 200 legal professionals from across Europe. The **50 Nations/1 Fellowship** Conference was unlike most lawyers' conferences. The focus of the conference was unity, forgiveness and reconciliation, and was bathed in prayer. I was pleased that Stuart and Celia McAlpine were able to join me and my wife in Berlin.

During the conference, a German judge named Peter (a good friend of mine) was one of the keynote speakers. In his talk he shared that his grandfather became guilty as a judge during the Nazi regime. Peter then asked — on behalf of himself, his family and his nation—for forgiveness. Another good friend from South Africa, Teresa, came to the podium and offered forgiveness on behalf of her own family and nation. Her grandfather had died during World War II while fighting in Europe. It was a powerful demonstration of our need for giving and receiving forgiveness and there was not a dry eye in the room. Many were openly weeping. The prayers covering that gathering were answered in a powerful way. We covet your continued ASKing for the ongoing work of strengthening these Advocates and Christian lawyer fellowships across Europe.

After all, being a lawyer is not so bad. God is the righteous Judge (Psalm 50:7), and Jesus himself is our Advocate before the Father. He not only represents us, but he took our punishment upon himself. (1 John 2:1-2). Pray that we Advocates will be more Christ-like in the legal profession.

Here are several ways you can ASK for Advocates International and lawyers around the globe:

- In addition to their busy legal practices or serving as judges, these men and women are in our churches, often serving as elders (as I do) or deacons; running ministries or serving on the boards of ministries. Pray for these Paul's and Deborah's.
- Law students represent the next generation. Please pray for these Timothy's and Esther's.
- You may know of attorneys or legal professionals in your church who aren't even aware that there are Christian legal fellowships. Please pray for that they will find fellowship with like-minded colleagues, or make the time to start a new fellowship.
- Beginning in 2019, we are launching a new initiative to pray daily for each continent with our Advocates via video-conferencing.
- To learn more, visit [www.advocatesinternational.org](http://www.advocatesinternational.org)

May the Lord bless and keep you in His perfect ...

***Grace and peace,  
Brent M. McBurney  
President & CEO of Advocates International***



**Brent McBurney**

## 2018 was a year of great grace for ASK

**Network.** We saw the ministry increasingly established in nations where we already had faithful leadership. We are so grateful to so many who have gathered, asked and been obedient to what God has asked of them. We have seen the increase that only God can give. We praise Him for that.

For instance under the ongoing leadership of Charles and Miriam Kaloki in Africa, ASK has grown considerably in several nations, and been launched in some new ones. A significant gathering of Southern African nations was held in Zambia this past October where Flemings Mtonga has taken a strong lead, even receiving esteem from government parties. We have been thankful to see ASK mature in other continents too; Europe and North America taking a faithful stand in challenging days. At an ASK Continental Conference in Florida USA last January, Ray and Arlene Borg (Canada) received the call to leadership for the North American Continent. As a result, Beverley Coad who had faithfully held that position was freed to travel for ASK more extensively internationally. Such examples of a healthy transfer of leadership is such a sign of God's favor and evidence of the growth God has brought.



*Stuart McAlpine ministering in Africa*

There have been other firsts this year. ASK teams traveled twice to India to teach the simple but profound principles of praying the Word of God for any situation, small or large. There is new encouragement in South East Asia where we have seen the first signs of growth in Thailand. Another significant first was a visit to Cuba where the soil is well prepared through many years of waiting and, we discovered, a leader prepared. We see this as a gateway to Central and South America.



*Praying in India*

Can we begin to visualize a world where all nations could be *prayed in* but also *prayed for* by other nations? Where the Sword of the Word is wielded with authority?

SO what does 2019 hold for us? In light of the encouragement of all we witnessed in 2018, let us take this lovely scripture from Corinthians and pray it for ASK in our own nations, but also particularly for nations where ASK has not yet been planted or has not yet flourished.

**He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many. For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.**

**2 Corinthians 1:10-12 (ESV)**

May all of ASK Network's efforts be led by God's grace and not earthly wisdom. Amen.



# CYPRUS

Forgotten EU Citizens: Turkish Cypriots



**Cyprus** is the third largest and most populous island in the Mediterranean. Its early history dates to the 2nd millennium BC and because of its strategic location, it has been occupied throughout the centuries by major world powers. Cyprus was partitioned in 1974 with the Muslim Turkish occupation of the north (36%), leaving the Greeks and Eastern Orthodox in the south (64%). The Republic of Cyprus (the south) is the recognized legal government of the whole island. Only Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of the North's government.

Cyprus is in the midst of a burgeoning migrant crisis as smuggler networks take advantage of the Mediterranean Island's partition and proximity to the Middle East. As in Greece, when Europe's refugee crisis erupted with Syria's descent into civil war, support groups have tried to deal with the social ailments that have arisen with the influx. However, the interior minister has stated that, "Cyprus is saturated and can no longer absorb such flows of immigration ..."

Cyprus is a destination country for women who are sex trafficked into prostitution and forced into domestic labor. Children within the migrant and Romani communities are also vulnerable to trafficking. Cyprus is not compliant with international pressure to end human trafficking. There is no law specifically banning human trafficking in the Turkish Republic of the North.

### Let's ASK:

- For God to reveal His heart to the church to find His solution to the refugee crisis. *What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.' Isaiah 58:7-9 (Message Bible)*
- For the church to come into agreement with what God wants us to do to put an end to the sex trafficking and forced domestic labor practices. *This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the work place, free the oppressed, cancel debts. Isaiah 58:6 (Message Bible)*

## Unreached People Group:

### TURKISH CYPRIOTS OF CYPRUS

Population: **214,000**  
 Primary Religion: **Islam**  
 Language: **Turkish**

### Background

The two largest indigenous people groups on Cyprus are the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots. They have been enemies since the 16th century when Ottomans invaded Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriots live on the northern part of the island and are separated from the Greeks by a defined border that is patrolled by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force. Most Turkish Cypriots are farmers and traders. They come from the Sunni branch of Islam, but most Turkish Cypriots today consider themselves secular Muslims, allowing the use of alcohol and not requiring women to cover their heads. There are roughly 1,000 known Christians among the Turkish Cypriots.

**ASK ...** that Jesus will be revealed to the Greek and Turkish Cypriots as the Prince of Peace. Ask God to bring down the "dividing wall of hostility" that separates the Cypriots of Cyprus. (Galatians 3:26-29, Ephesians 2:14-18)



# KUWAIT



## Unreached People Group:

### TELUGU OF KUWAIT

Population: **600**  
 Primary Religion: **Hinduism**  
 Language: **Telugu**

### Background

The Telugu originally lived in southern India and were among its most prosperous people. Most have now migrated to other nations where they are able to make a better living. In Kuwait, the Telugu work as business and medical professionals, as well as oil industry laborers or domestic servants. The Telugu are a small portion of the 1.3 million Hindus who comprise over one-third of Kuwait's population. Each year during Diwali, Hindus celebrate the victory of good over evil, the power of light over darkness. There is a large congregation in Kuwait reaching out to Kuwait's Hindu people groups.

**PRAY ...** that Telugu would know Jesus as the Light of the world and the one true God who is good. Ask God to give energy and creativity to Christians in Kuwait who are actively reaching out to Hindu people groups. (Psalm 145:9, John 8:12)

The nation of **Kuwait** is situated at the tip of the Persian Gulf, sharing borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Of its 4.2 million people, 1.3 million are Kuwaiti and 2.9 million are expatriates (70%). Kuwait is a semi-democratic system and its high-income economy is backed by the world's 6th largest oil reserve, financing the nation's large-scale modernization. In the 1980s, geopolitical instability and economic crisis led to invasion by the Iraq which ended in 1991 after the Gulf War.

Kuwait is 82% Muslim, 14% Christian and 1.5% Evangelical. The underground Church is gaining in strength, and converted Kuwaitis are becoming public and gathering with boldness and openness. Most expatriates are men on short-term work contracts resulting in greater tolerance of other faiths because foreigners comprise most of the workforce. There are many opportunities to minister to the nominal Christians among them.

Kuwaiti families often leave the child-rearing to the maids and nannies that are committed believers but who live and work in difficult circumstances and are mistreated or abused by their Arab 'superiors'.

### Let's ASK:

- For the Church to grow in God's word; how to relate to the Kuwaiti families they serve; and to be an example of godliness to their employers. *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness ... Philipians 1:9-10*
- That the conditions will continue to improve through changes in the hearts of employers. *And I will give them one heart [a new heart] and put a new spirit within them. I will take from them the heart of stone, and will give them a heart of flesh [that is responsive to My touch]. Ezekiel 11:19 (Amplified)*
- For God to encourage and use believers to win those from other faiths. Many have amazing access within the homes and lives of Kuwaitis. *The Lord says, "You people are my witnesses and the servant I chose. I chose you so that you would help people believe me. I chose you so that you would understand that 'I Am He'—I am the true God. There was no God before me, and there will be no God after me. I myself am the Lord, and there is no other Savior." Isaiah 43:10-11*

